Strancally dispute update

Peru: system change not leadership change

Clamp Down on right to strike and protest

BLACK STAR

GENERAL STRIKE?

As we go to press there's much talk of February as the month in which Britain will see its first general strike since 1926. It has, of course, taken the bourgeois media to point out that a general strike would be illegal and as trade unions won't even engage in civil disobedience, there's little chance of law-breaking. What we have then are simultaneous or linked strikes, not quite the same thing obviously and all led by officials who have never had a revolutionary thought in their lives. For them, the strike is a protest and protest equals spectacle - from tweets to headlines, it's all about getting attention not about emancipatory direct action.

Nevertheless, and in spite of all the bollocks spoken by trade union bosses, workers are expecting more and they will demand more from the current and growing wave of strikes. Our general strike is not their general strike - we want more for our class than any boss class has to offer, or is capable of offering. We want another world and a different world than the one we have at the moment.

'I definitely think there will be generalised action'

Mick Lynch 'calling' for a general strike

Peru - System Change Not Leadership Change

Peru has served as a lesson to the world in recent decades of how political parties of the left and right are completely incapable of achieving change, tackling poverty and improving people's lives. Moreover, the endemic culture of corruption in which all politicians across the world, casually, in both small and larger ways demonstrate their greed, self-interest and ability to lie, seems starkly transparent in Peruvian politics. In recent years, presidents Fujimori, Kuczynski, Vizcarra and now, since December, Castillo, have all been forced to resign or removed from office under the shadow of various corruption allegations. Little wonder then that many ordinary Peruvian workers have taken to the streets demanding not only the removal of the latest crook in charge, Dina Boluarte, but the very system that places them in power. Of course, these gangsters were merely the latest in a long line of managers beholden to international capitalism, many of whom in the last century massacred workers and peasants in their thousands with complete impunity. That's become much more difficult in twenty-first century South America, and still, recent weeks have seen over fifty people murdered by the state with hundreds arrested on trumped up charges. Juventud Anarquista Lima (Lima Anarchist Youth), many of whose militants have been involved in resisting the state's repression of protests and blockades recently declared 'It is not simply a matter of certain corrupt politicians and betting on others to be "more decent". We do not want to elect new executioners and "democratic" masters. We do not want to wash the face of the institutions, nor demand "constitutional reforms" that alienate the popular struggle. We bet on the real transformation of our environment. We want them all to go, and for we, the self-organised people, to be the ones to undertake the task of reconstruction and social convergence.'

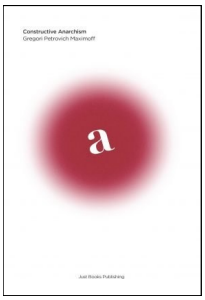
The current round of protests began at the Chinese-owned copper mine, Las Bambas, one of the largest in the world, which has seen ongoing occupations and road blocks by indigenous communities against the environmental impact. Some of this has attracted the support of mineworkers as well, 3,000 of whom were laid off last year by the company. The protests look likely to continue even amidst the growing wave of government repression.

Organise! at Derry Radical Bookfair

On Saturday, 28 January, Organise! wandered along to the Derry Radical Bookfair in Pilot's Row on the edge of the Bogside. The day went well and involved a broad range of groups, individuals and booksellers, with talks organised on anarchist prisoner support, mutual aid, and two book launches. Comrades from the Irish Anarchist Network swapped information about their bookfair coming up in May, which we hope to get to, and it was great to meet comrades from the North-East of England Anarchist Network. We also got the chance to meet some friendly council communist comrades from the Communist Workers' Organisation, who had some nice things to say about this wee newsletter. Copies of *Black Star*, our southern bulletin *Class War* and some books from the recently established Just Books Publications were picked up and all round good chats and banter was had.

Just Books Publishing

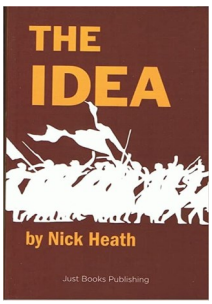
Just Books Publishing, recently set up by the Just Books Collective (an integral part of the work of Organise!), has successfully released its first two titles.



The first is a reprint of Gregori Maximoff's *Constructive Anarchism*, to mark the 100th year of existence of the International Workers Association (IWA) the Anarcho-Syndicalist international founded in Berlin in 1922.

isbn 9781739723705

£11.99



The second title is Nick Heath's *The Idea. Anarchist Communism: Past, Present and Future* - a welcome and new comprehensive work on anarchist communism, this book seeks to rehabilitate the current of anarchist-communism. To make it better known and understood.

*...a good substantial book, and much needed. Lucidly written, it provides a rich brew of engaging discussions of the 'Idea' (anarchist communism as a political philosophy), interesting vignettes of many individual anarchists, and a great historical account of the many anarchist communist organisations over the past 150 years... (*Brian Morris on *The Idea)*

isbn 9781739723712

£18.99

https://organiseanarchistsireland.com/shop/

A Sideways Glance:
Clampdown on Strikes and Protest

As the current strike wave continues to gather momentum politicians have decided to go on the attack rather than concede to the demands of hard-pressed workers. The Strikes (Minimum Service) Bill was voted through the House of Commons at the end of January and deliberately targets those sectors where strike action has given the government problems. For now the new laws will apply to England, Scotland and Wales allowing Ministers to force workers to scab during strikes in health, education, fire and rescue, border 'security', nuclear decommissioning and transport.

Anyone who is taking part in already severely limited legal strike action could be named in a work notice issued by their employer as someone who has to work! This is despite the existing 'life and limb' emergency cover provisions that are already in place during health and fire service strikes. Protection for engaging in lawful industrial action will be removed and anyone who refuses the order back to work can be sacked. Unions will also be legally obliged to take 'reasonable steps' to ensure members comply with the order back to work. First in the firing line will be those troublesome ambulance, fire and rail workers.

On top of anti-strike legislation the British government are giving the police in England and Wales more power to clamp down on protests. The bill includes a new criminal offence for those who try to lock themselves to objects or buildings, and allows courts to restrict the freedoms of protesters if they are thought to be likely to cause 'serious disruption'. While the legislation passed it's 3rd reading in the House of Commons it has been temporarily stalled by the House of Lords. When this symbolic upset is overcome police will, in the style of the dystopian sci-fi movie *Minority Report*, be given the power to predict disruption and shut down protests before that disruption occurs. Not content with last April's draconian *Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act*, which introduced an offence of public nuisance, created powers for the police to place conditions on noisy protests, and increased sentences for obstructing the highway, Chancellor Sunak has declared:

We cannot have protests conducted by a small minority disrupting the lives of the ordinary public. It's not acceptable and we're going to bring it to an end.

This will reduce legally acceptable protest to something that is even more symbolic than the shite that all too often passes for protest and which is of course utterly ignorable by those in power. Much like strikes where you are legally obliged to scab.

Strancally Dispute Update

Our comrades from CNT-AIT Marina Alta were 'summoned' via several threatening solicitor's letters recently to attend in person their Workplace Relations Commission adjudication hearing in March. The employers' solicitors objected to a remote hearing, even though most WRC ones these days are ordinarily held online. In addition, they made spurious claims of threats and intimidation – as if solidarity and standing up for our comrades and fellow workers amounts to trying to intimidate these extremely wealthy and powerful people.

These ridiculous and unfounded claims were refuted by our friends and comrades and the WRC disagreed with the employers and has ruled that the hearing will proceed remotely. We in Organise! will continue to support them in what is a patently clear case of unfair dismissal, unpaid wages and unregulated overtime.

Meanwhile in Ballymena... the KFC Link Road

Locals here are already calling it the 'KFC road', but the £6 million spine road in Ballymena will flow straight into the Larne link road and locals are up in arms because it is an accident waiting to happen. It's part of the Department of Communities' regeneration of the auld St Patrick's Barracks site, with price-fixing contractors, FP McCann given the contract for the road. The new road will flow straight onto the KFC, guaranteeing a crash before long in addition to the removal of the walkways into town and environmental damage being caused by yet another new road.

Get Involved: Help Build A Working Class Alternative.

ORGANISE!

FRIENDS OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' ASSOCIATION · AMIGOS DE LA ASOCIACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE LAS Y LOS TRABAJADORES

WWW.ORGANISEANARCHISTSIRELAND.COM

Organise! is an anarcho-syndicalist group in Ireland which as affiliated to the International Worker's Association as 'friends of' section. We take inspiration from the self directed struggles of working-class people, and particularly the history and tradition of struggle epitomised by the IWA - the anarcho-syndicalist international. Our history goes back to the original formation of Organise! by the Ballymena and Antrim Anarchist Groups in 1985.

We are a small, but growing, group of ordinary working class people who are fed up with being fucked about by the profit system, fed up with seeing our communities and workplaces torn apart by racism, patriarchy, nationalism and sectarianism, and sick of a greedy few getting rich off everyone else's backs.

We are actively working to promote solidarity in opposition to capitalism, the state, patriarchy and all other forms of oppression and hierarchy. The way we organise reflects the free society we want to create: one based on voluntary association, democratic participation and self-management.

Our members are workers, claimants, students, migrants, unemployed and other working-class people committed to building a libertarian communist union movement actively opposed to all forms of oppression and exploitation.

We want to improve everyday conditions for ourselves and other working class people, but we also struggle for the revolutionary transformation that can create a free and equal society, one based on mutual aid and co-operation. Sound crazy? Maybe it does, but in an era in which it is easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism the continuation of the present system is even crazier…

The current system isn't working – ill-health, stress and overwork affect more and more people while others are flung on the dole; for increasing amounts of workers it is precarity, zero hours contracts and the stress of being unable to plan or budget our lives; we live in a world of plentiful resources yet millions starve; some people make vast fortunes just because they own companies, land, property or natural resources, but those of us who create the wealth, work the land and build the properties are left struggling to survive; politicians tell us there's no money – not for wages, benefits or local amenities, but there's always plenty for war; both locally and globally the gap between the richest and the poorest sections of society has never been so great; instead of a war on poverty they've got a war on 'benefit fraud', while the same system that creates war, poverty and environmental destruction stigmatises, imprisons and deports the resultant refugees.

We don't think these things are inevitable or coincidental, we think they are related to capitalism – an economic system defined by wage slavery and the accumulation of profit out of other people's work. So we support all workers against their bosses in demanding higher wages and better conditions. We try to intervene practically to support workers engaged in disputes and are also active in our own workplaces and communities. Not only against exploitation but against the multiple oppressions faced by members of the working class in all our diversity.

But it's not just a question of trying to struggle by in a world of exploitation and oppression; we look to a future where workers control production and society in their own interests. And unlike some people who claim to oppose capitalism, we don't want to be a new set of leaders and we refuse to be led by anyone else. We advocate direct democracy in the workplace and through the commune in our communities – working in federation to ensure that the needs of all are met and that no-one is ever again in a position to oppress or exploit another human being.

If you are interested in these ideas, we'd encourage you to explore our website and consider getting involved.

We currently have members in Belfast, Cork, Derry, Lisburn, Newtownabbey and Portadown and are building the organisation on the basis of active involvement and participation. We aren't interested in meaningless 'paper' membership so you can't join by filling in an online form and bunging us a few quid.

To talk to us about joining get the ball rolling, check out our website at https://organiseanarchistsireland.com and send an email to:

organiseasi@gmail.com